

Claims

1-13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting at least one of: Kaposi's sarcoma associated herpesvirus (KSHV)-induced cellular gene expression or encoded biological activity; KSHV infection; or KSHV-mediated effects on cellular proliferation and phenotype, the method comprising introducing into, or expressing within a KSHV-infected human cell at least one of an antisense, siRNA, or ribozyme agent specific for a validated KSHV-induced cellular gene sequence, and in an amount sufficient to inhibit, ~~at least to some extent,~~ expression of the validated KSHV-induced cellular gene sequence, or contacting the KSHV-infected human cell with a small molecule inhibitor or an antibody specific to protein encoded by the validated KSHV-induced cellular gene,

wherein a the validated KSHV-induced cellular gene sequence is a nucleic acid sequence the expression of which is required, ~~at least to some extent,~~ for the KSHV-induced cellular gene expression or encoded biological activity, the KSHV infection, or the KSHV-mediated effects on cellular proliferation and phenotype,

thereby inhibiting at least one of: Kaposi's sarcoma associated herpesvirus (KSHV)-induced cellular gene expression or encoded biological activity; KSHV infection; or KSHV-mediated effects on cellular proliferation and phenotype.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein inhibiting the KSHV-mediated effects on cellular proliferation and phenotype comprises inhibiting proliferation or development of cancer cells.

16. (Original) The method of any one of claims 14 or 15, wherein the validated KSHV-induced cellular gene sequence is that corresponding to a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 25, 27 and 29, for the RDC-1, IGFBP2, FLJ14103, KIAA0367, Neuritin, INSR, KIT (c-kit), LOX, NOV and ANGPTL2 cDNA sequences, respectively.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 ~~any one of claims 14-16~~, wherein the antisense agent specific for a validated KSHV-induced cellular gene sequence comprises a nucleic acid sequence of at least 18 contiguous bases in length that is complementary to, or hybridizes under moderately stringent or stringent conditions to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 25, 27, 29, and sequences complementary thereto.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 ~~any one of claims 14-17~~, wherein the antisense agent specific for a validated KSHV-induced cellular gene sequence comprises a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:15-24, 31-32 and 33.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 ~~any one of claims 14-18~~, wherein the validated KSHV-induced cellular gene sequence-specific antisense agent comprises a Phosphorodiamidate Morpholino Oligomers (PMO) antisense oligonucleotide specific for the validated KSHV-induced cellular gene sequence.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting or treating KSHV-infection in a subject, or for treating KSHV-related neoplastic disease, comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of at least one of an antisense, siRNA or ribozyme agent specific for a validated KSHV-induced cellular gene sequence, or administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of small molecule inhibitor or an antibody specific to the protein encoding the validated KSHV-induced cellular gene sequence, wherein the validated KSHV-induced cellular gene sequence is a nucleic acid sequence the expression of which is required, at least to some extent, for the KSHV-infection or the KSHV-related neoplastic disease.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the validated KSHV-induced cellular gene sequence is that corresponding to a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 25, 27 and 29, for the RDC-1, IGFBP2, FLJ14103, KIAA0367, Neuritin, INSR, KIT (c-kit), LOX, NOV and ANGPTL2 cDNA sequences, respectively.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 ~~any one of claims 20 or 21~~, wherein the antisense agent specific for a validated KSHV-induced cellular gene sequence comprises a nucleic acid sequence of at least 18 contiguous bases in length that is complementary to, or hybridizes under moderately stringent or stringent conditions to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 25, 27, 29, and sequences complementary thereto.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 ~~any one of claims 20-22~~, wherein the antisense agent specific for a validated KSHV-induced cellular gene sequence comprises a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:15-24, 31-32 and 33.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 ~~any one of claims 20-23~~, wherein the validated KSHV-induced cellular gene sequence-specific antisense agent comprises a Phosphorodiamidate Morpholino Oligomers (PMO) antisense oligonucleotide specific for the validated KSHV-induced cellular gene sequence.

25-36. (Canceled).

37. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises introducing into the cell the validated KSHV-induced cellular gene sequence which is a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1 or 9, for the RDC-1 or Neuritin cDNA sequences, respectively.

38. (New). The method of claim 1, comprising contacting the KSHV-infected human cell with a small molecule inhibitor of RDC-1 or Neuritin.

40. (New) The method of claim 38, comprising contacting the KSHV-infected human cell with a small molecule inhibitor of RDC-1.

41. (New) A method of decreasing cellular proliferation induced by Kaposi's sarcoma associated herpesvirus (KSHV) of a human cell, comprising, introducing into, or expressing within a KSHV-infected human cell at least one of an antisense, siRNA or ribozyme agent specific for SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 9, or contacting the KSHV-infected human cell with a small molecule inhibitor or an antibody that specifically binds the protein encoded by SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO:9, thereby decreasing cellular proliferation of the KSHV-infected human cell.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, comprising introducing into, or expressing within the KSHV-infected human cell at least one of an antisense, siRNA, small molecule inhibitor, antibody or ribozyme agent specific for SEQ ID NO: 1.

43. (New) The method of claim 41, comprising contacting the KSHV-infected human cell with a small molecule inhibitor or an antibody that specifically binds the protein encoded by SEQ ID NO: 1, thereby decreasing cellular proliferation induced by KSHV.

44. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the KSHV-infected human cell is *in vivo*.

45. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the KSHV-infected human cell is *in vitro*.